



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE NEW LONDON
GROTON, CONNECTICUT 06349-5000

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Ser N45/0548
15 Jul 16

Ms. Jean Brochi
ELIS SEIS/Proposed Rule Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Mail Code: OEP06-1
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Dear Ms. Brochi:

The Naval Submarine Base New London (SUBASENLON) is submitting this letter of support for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement's (DSEIS) three alternative sites disposing of dredged material in Eastern Long Island Sound (ELIS) and the Proposed Rule (81 FR 2478) designating a dredged material disposal site in ELIS.

SUBASENLON commends the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on conducting a rigorous analysis and evaluation of alternatives for designating a dredge material disposal site in ELIS. Submarine operations at SUBASENLON are critical to national defense and SUBASENLON depends on dredging and having access to a nearby dredge material disposal site to maintain required depths to homeport Ohio and Virginia class submarines and provide access to our piers to support our mission.

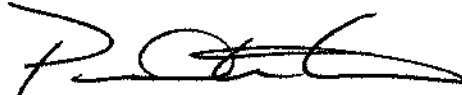
The DSEIS identifies the Cornfield Shoals, Niantic Bay, and New London Disposal Sites. SUBASENLON will require future dredging for maintenance purposes and improvement projects. SUBASENLON supports the selection of a disposal site in ELIS for disposal of dredged material that meets the strict federal and state requirements that determine eligibility of sediments to be disposed of in ELIS.

Additionally, please note, Figure ES-3 of the DSEIS shows the alternative locations for the proposed New London Disposal Site (NLDS). SUBASENLON requests that the portion of the site identified as the NLDS in the DSEIS be shifted slightly to the west to avoid an overlap with the Navy's submarine transit corridor.

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Should you require further information, or if you have additional questions, please contact Mr. Michael Brown, at (860) 694-3976.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. A. Whitescarver', with a stylized flourish at the end.

P. A. WHITESCARVER
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer